

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9-13 are all the claims pending in the application, new claim 13 having been added as indicated herein. Claims 1, 3, 5-7¹, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9-12 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent 9-225975 (JP'975) in view of Buzzell et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,187,247), hereinafter referred to Buzzell.

§ 112, second paragraph, Rejections - Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9-12

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Specifically, the Examiner states, "In claims 1, 5 and 7, proper antecedent basis is lacking for 'the moving side'. The Examiner suggests using -moving mold-- in its place."

Applicant amends claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9-12 to replace "moving mold", "movable side", and "moving side" with "movable mold", as indicated herein. Applicant believes that these amendments obviate the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Also, the Examiner objects to claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-12, as indicated on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant amends the objected to claims, as recommended by the Examiner. That is, Applicant inserts --molding a-- and --molding the--, as appropriate, before "seal member".

§ 103(a) Rejections (JP'975 / Buzzell) - Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9-12

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action.

¹ Applicant does not believe that the Examiner intended to indicate that claim 6 is rejected, as this claim has been canceled.

In response to the rejections, Applicant maintains the previously submitted arguments and submits, with respect to claims 1 and 5, that Buzzell relates to fastener elements and, in particular, to mold releasing of a molding (product) provided with undercut. Buzzell, however, does not relate to the claimed seal member. Further, Applicant submits that Buzzell is directed to making products having an array of many, small integrally molded fastener elements, such as hook elements (velcro). *See Abstract*. Therefore, the undercut hooks of Buzzell have functionality in the final product, unlike the presently claimed invention. Yet further, Buzzell also does not disclose any defined convex portion on a moving mold for forming recesses of wall thickness, as described in claim 1.

Also, Applicant maintains that one skilled in the art, in view of the applied references, would NOT have been led to combine Buzzell with JP'975, to arrive at applicant's invention at least because Buzzell is not directed to an injection molding apparatus for a seal member.

Also, with respect to claim 5, Applicant submits that neither of the references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the feature, "being provided with defined concave portions on said moving mold and the defined concave portions forming ribs at portions not serving as sealing faces of the seal member," as recited in claim 5.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-4 and 6-12 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 5.

Finally, Applicant adds new claim 13 to round out the scope of protection solicited for the present invention. Applicant submits that new claim 13 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 09/964,694

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q65888

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

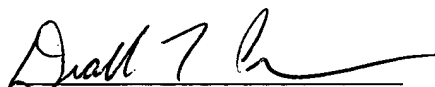
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